

Having thus described the preferred embodiments of the present invention, those of skill in the art will be readily able to adapt the teachings found herein to yet other embodiments within the scope of the claims hereto attached.

5 WE CLAIM:

## CLAIMS

SUB A17  
5 1. In a data processing environment having a user terminal responsively coupled via a publically accessible digital data communication network to a data base management system having at least one data base, the improvement comprising:

a service request generated by said user terminal which creates an empty data set within the data base management system.

2. The improvement according to claim 1 wherein said data base management system further comprises a repository in which said empty data set is created.

3. The improvement according to claim 2 further comprising a parameter set associated with said service request whereby said empty data set is created in accordance with said parameter set..

4. The improvement according to claim 3 wherein said publically accessible digital data communication network further comprises the internet.

5. The improvement according to claim 4 wherein said data base management system is

20 MAPPER.

6. An apparatus comprising:

- 5
- a. a user terminal;
  - b. a data base management system having access to a data base responsively coupled to said user terminal via a publically accessible digital data communication network; and
  - c. a service request generated by said user terminal which causes said data base management system to create an empty data set

7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein said data base management system further comprises a repository in which said empty data set is created.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein said service request further comprises a parameter set which defines said empty data set.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein said data base management system further comprises MAPPER.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein said publically accessible digital data communication network further comprises the world wide web.

11. A method of utilizing a user terminal to access a remote data base management system having a data base via a publically accessible digital data communication network comprising:

- a. transmitting a service request from said user terminal;
- b. receiving said service request by said remote data base management system; and

c. creating an empty data set by said data base management system in response to receipt of said service request.

12. A method according to claim 11 wherein said creating step further comprises defining said empty data set in response to parameters associated with said service request.

13. A method according to claim 12 wherein said creating step further comprises creating said empty data set within a repository of said data base management system.

14. A method according to claim 13 wherein said publically accessible digital data communication network further comprises the internet.

15. A method according to claim 14 wherein said remote data base management system further comprises the MAPPER data base management system.

16. An apparatus comprising:

a. means for permitting a user to interact with a data base responsively coupled via a publically accessible digital data communication network;

b. means responsively coupled to said permitting means via said publically accessible digital data communication network for offering data processing services involving access to said data base in response to said service request; and

c. means for creating an empty data set within said data base management system.

17. An apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said publically accessible digital data communication network further comprises the internet.

18. An apparatus according to claim 17 wherein said permitting means further comprises means  
5 for generating and transmitting a service request requesting said data base management system to execute said creating step.

19. An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said offering means further comprises MAPPER data base management system.

20. An apparatus according to claim 19 wherein said permitting means further comprises an industry standard personal computer.